

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00916 251239Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8574

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 916

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, FI (SUTELA, GENERAL)

SUBJECT: JCS SPONSORED SUTELA VISIT TO U.S.

1. LAST EVENING I MET GENERAL SUTELA, CINC FINNISH DEFENSE FORCES, AT A DINNER HOSTED BY MY DEFENSE ATTACHE. ALTHOUGH I HAD BEEN BRIEFED LAST WEEK BY PAUL CANNEY, EUR/NE, THAT A PROPOSED JCS SPONSORED SUTELA VISIT TO THE US WAS FIRM EXCEPT FOR FIXING A DATE, WE DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE GENERAL LAST NIGHT SINCE WE AS YET HAVE RECEIVED NO FIRM COMMITMENT FROM GENERAL BROWN.

2. FOLLOWING A WARM PRO-AMERICAN AFTER-DINNER SPEECH BY GENERAL SUTELA, THE SUBJECT OF HIS VISIT SURFACED WHILE THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR WAS REMINISCING ABOUT TRAVELS IN THE STATES.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, GENERAL SUTELA ENGAGED IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE AND REQUESTED THE EXACT STATUS OF HIS PROPOSED VISIT. HE WAS ADVISED THAT WE EXPECTED A FIRM DECISION IN LATE MAY. HE THEN REVIEWED THE PROGRAM STATING THAT AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO HIS PRESENT JOB LAST YEAR HE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TO ARRANGE A TRIP TO  
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00916 251239Z

THE US. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE MAKES TWO TRIPS A YEAR

AND THAT THESE TRIPS ARE INTENDED TO REFLECT THE NEUTRAL STATUS OF HIS COUNTRY. HE CONTINUED THAT HE TRAVELED TO SWEDEN LAST FALL, WILL GO TO MOSCOW NEXT MONTH AND FEELS THE PROPOSED TRIP TO THE US IN THE FALL TO BE THE PERFECT BALANCE. HE FURTHER STATES THAT HE HAS TURNED DOWN INVITATIONS TO FRANCE, AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE FOR A FIRM COMMITMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE LAST US VISIT BY A FINNISH CINC WAS THAT OF GENERAL SIMELIUS, 12 YEARS AGO. HE MENTIONED OCTOBER AS DESIRED TRAVEL TIME.

4. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE FEELS THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GENERAL'S TONE, ALTHOUGH FRIENDLY, WAS UNUSUALLY FIRM AND PERHAPS OUT OF CHARACTER. THERE IS A STRONG PROBABILITY THAT HE IS BEING PRESSURED BY HIS GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. I FEEL HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO THE US TO BE A CRITICAL FACTOR IN FINNO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND STRONGLY RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

6. I WILL MEET WITH GENERAL SUTELA AGAIN AT 0800Z 27 APRIL AND DESIRE TO BE PREPARED TO SPEAK WITH HIM ON THE PROPOSED VISIT AT THAT TIME.

7. REQUEST DEPT CONTACT GENERAL BROWN'S OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF THE DECISION ON THE SUTELA INVITATION HAS BEEN MADE. IF NOT YET MADE, WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INVITATION BEING GIVEN AND WHEN? PLEASE MARK YOUR RETURN MESSAGE FOR MY PERSONAL ATTENTION.  
AUSTAD

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## Message Attributes

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